

Appl. No.: 10/067,704
Amdt. Dated January 19, 2004
Response to Office Action of November 18, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-92 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 50-54, 59, 91 and 92 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,616,759 issued to Tanaka. Claims 2-49, 55-58, and 60-90 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Tanaka in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,326,160 issued to Dunn et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections set forth above. Applicant has amended claim 1 as follows:

1. A method facilitating design and manufacturing processes, the method comprising
 receiving a plurality of article characteristic values associated with a set of
 articles having a range of variation as to a plurality of article characteristics resulting
 from a process;
 selecting a predictor characteristic from the plurality of article
 characteristics; and,
 determining the regression model(s) between the predictor characteristic
 and at least one of the remaining article characteristics in the plurality of article
 characteristics.

Applicant has amended the remaining independent claims 1, 34, 50, 59 and 91 in a similar manner to state that the article characteristics are those characteristics "resulting from a process."

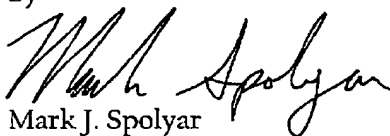
Tanaka, alone or in combination with Dunn, fails to disclose or suggest the subject matter of the claims, as amended. Tanaka discloses the prediction of a process output resulting from a semiconductor manufacturing process based on a sensed or monitored state of the manufacturing process, such as pressure, temperature and the like. Tanaka, however, does not disclose or suggest a process analysis system or method that analyzes the relationships between a plurality of article characteristics resulting from a process, as disclosed and claimed by Applicant. Further, Dunn discloses a process for estimating the concentration of a target analyte in a biological host based on detected raw signal, and does not disclose analysis of a plurality of article characteristics resulting from a process.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant believes that all currently pending claims are presently in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes that any further action by Applicant is necessary to place this application in condition for allowance, Applicants request a telephone conference with the

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undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully Submitted,
LAW OFFICE OF MARK J. SPOLYAR
By



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